

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01728 251633Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02
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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9384

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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UNCLAS DUBLIN 1728

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SOPN, EI, UK (NI), US

SUBJECT: PRESS ON PRESIDENT CARTER AND NORTHERN IRELAND

REF: DUBLIN 1725

1. IRISH RADIO AND THREE DUBLIN MORNING PAPERS HAD LONG
FOLLOW-UP STORIES TO ARTICLES MENTIONED IN REFTEL. TWO PAPERS
ALSO HAD EDITORIALS WHICH WE ARE SENDING BY SEPTTEL.

2. IRISH TIMES FRONT PAGE FEATURE, WITH PICTURE OF PRESIDENT
CARTER, STATED: QUOTE PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION IN
THE UNITED STATES LAST NIGHT DENIED THAT IT WAS PLANNING TO
OFFER AID TO BOTH COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTH IN AN ATTEMPT TO
END VIOLENCE AND FIND A POLITICAL SOLUTION.
BUT THE PRESIDENT IS EXPECTED TO MAKE A MAJOR STATEMENT ON
NORTHERN IRELAND THIS AUTUMN IN WHICH HE IS LIKELY TO ENCOURAGE
AMERICAN INDUSTRIALISTS TO INVEST IN THE NORTH AND URGE PEOPLE
NOT TO SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS WHICH FUND PAPAMILITARY GROUPS.
UNQUOTE. THE ARTICLE FURTHER NOTED THAT INTEREST IN NORTHERN
IRELAND AFFAIRS AMONG SENIOR USG OFFICIALS AND POLITICIANS
HAS BEEN GROWING, MENTIONING THE EFFORTS OF SPEAKER
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O'NEILL, SENATORS KENNEDY AND MOYNIHAN, AND GOVERNOR
CAREY. ALSO SENATOR MCGOVERN'S RECENT TRIP TO IRELAND
WAS CITED.

3. ALSO IN A FRONT PAGE FEATURE, WITH BIG HEADLINE, THE
IRISH PRESS HEADED: QUOTE SOURCES CLOSE TO THE GOVERNMENT
CONFIRMED LAST NIGHT THAT THE CARTER PLAN FOR PEACE IN

THE NORTH WILL BE DISCUSSED AT MEETINGS OF THE CABINET TOMORROW AND FRIDAY. THE MOVE FOLLOWS WEEKEND REPORTS THAT THE U.S. PRESIDENT IS SOON TO MAKE A MAJOR SPEECH ON THE NORTH. HOWEVER, THE WHITE HOUSE WOULD NOT CONFIRM THE REPORTS LAST NIGHT.

BOTH IN DUBLIN AND LONDON SOURCES INDICATED OVER THE WEEKEND THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROPOSALS WOULD INCLUDE A PROMISE OF AMERICAN HELP TO BOTH COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTH IF IT WOULD HELP FIND THEM A POLITICAL SOLUTION AND AN END TO VIOLENCE UNQUOTE. THE PRESS ARTICLE THEN REPEATED EARLIER MATERIAL (REFTEL) AND INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING: QUOTE EARLY TODAY, FR. SEAN MCMANUS, SPOKESMAN FOR THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS TOLD THE IRISH PRESS THAT THEY WERE CONFIDENT OF PRESIDENT CARTER SOON LAUNCHING A PEACE INITIATIVE. TELEPHONING FROM BOSTON HE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THE CARTER PLAN BUT HINTED THAT IT COULD INCLUDE AN OFFER OF FINANCIAL AID AND A CALL ON BRITAIN TO MAKE A DECLARATION OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM NORTHERN IRELAND. UNQUOTE.

4. THE PRESS ALSO HAD SOME INTERESTING QUOTES FROM OTHER INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING (A) UK TORY PARTY SPOKESMAN JOHN BIGGS- DAVIDSON: QUOTE THE BEST HELP AMERICA CAN GIVE IS TO KEEP STEMMING THE FLOW OF MONEY AND ARMS TO THE NORTH, WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN DOING. THE NORTH, HE STRESSED, IS ESSENTIALLY A PROBLEM TO BE UNCLASSIFIED

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SETTLED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM. ANYWAY, LETS SEE WHAT HE DOES SAY. I WOULD NOT LIKE TO COMMENT ON AN UNDELIVERED SPEECH, HE SAID UNQUOTE (B) AN UN-NAMED PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN SPOKESMAN WHO QUOTE EXPRESSED GRAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT POSSIBLE PROVISOS THAT WOULD ACCOMPANY ANY AMERICAN INITIATIVE, NAMELY PRESSURE ON AN INDEPENDENT NORTH TO JOIN NATO.

WE WOULDN'T WELCOME HIS STATEMENT UNLESS HE INDICATED THAT BRITAIN SHOULD GET OUT OF IRELAND AND RESTORE SOVEREIGNTY TO THE IRISH PEOPLE UNQUOTE. (C) ANDY TYRIE, U.D.A. COMMANDER, SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT RULE OUT ANY SUGGESTIONS QUOTE JUST BECAUSE THEY CAME FROM A PARTICULAR SOURCE. UNQUOTE. (D) PADDY DEVLIN OF THE SDLP: QUOTE SAID THE RECENT CHANGE IN THE AMERICAN AMBASSADORS TO DUBLIN AND OTHER THINGS INDICATED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS TRYING TO BRING ABOUT A SITUATION WHERE SUGGESTIONS OR PROPOSALS FROM THE AMERICANS OR EUROPE MIGHT BE MORE ACCEPTABLE, TO SOME SECTIONS, BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT BE SEEN NECESSARILY AS PROPOSALS FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, BUT FROM OTHER SYMPATHETIC OR INTERESTED COUNTRIES. UNQUOTE. SHANNON

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